

"Nothing Sacred" debuts the 17th



Above: From left to right: Micah Vogel, Carl Van Rooyen, Lee Christians, Eric Pilon, and James Klaver will star in "Nothing Sacred," directed by Prof. Du Toit.

Andrea Vander Wilt staff writer

The curtains will open Thursday, October 17, on Dordt's fall production of *Nothing Sacred*. The play is a dark Russian comedy based on an adaptation of Ivan Turgenev's novel *Fathers and Sons*. The play was written by George Walker and will be directed by Simon Du Toit.

Nothing Sacred tells a story of a struggle between two generations. The older generation is still clinging to the hope that they have, while the younger generation is being tempted by fiery radicalism. The Russian setting and flavor makes this play different from recent plays done at Dordt and will prove to be very exciting for the audience.

Ethan Koerner is playing the leading role of Bazarov. He says that one of the most interesting parts of his character was "the dualism of the character. He pretends to be an anarchist but is really very caring."

An interesting thing the

audience may notice is character switching. Laura Groen and Rachel Persenaire will both be playing the opposite roles of Fenishka and Anna Odinstova. Anna is very independent and intriguing; she even leads a revolution. Fenichka is very wholesome, earthly, and relaxed. The two girls are both enjoying the experience of being able to switch roles. "It is a matter of changing from one to another. I like it, and it makes it interesting," Persenaire commented.

Mark Jansen will be composing the music for this production. The music will be heard before and after the play, as well as during scene changes. He is composing music for a string quartet to play and a male chorus to sing. Jansen has previously received a meritorious award for his work on *The Glass Menagerie* and is very excited about his work for *Nothing Sacred*. Jansen enjoys composing music because "you can portray a worldview. I can look at the way I see things and then dis-

play it through music."

The moods that both the actors and Jansen will be trying to create are both very serious and funny. "It changes tone so quickly from comedy to drama to comedy again. Audiences will be half laughing and half crying throughout the production," Du Toit stated. The older generation displays sadness, while the younger generation experiences political conflict, as they try to figure out the difference between right and wrong; romance is shown through the younger generation as they try to figure out the difference between right and wrong.

The cast and crew hope the audience will enjoy the show. *Nothing Sacred* deals with some serious issues. It will make you laugh and it will make you cry. "Human relationships are finally what God calls us to," Du Toit stated. This play deals with relationships, both with ourselves and with others. So, one last word to everyone...enjoy the show!

Parent's weekend schedule

Thursday, October 17

7:30 p.m.

Theatre Production-- Nothing Sacred, Te Paske Theatre (ticket reservations required)

Friday, October 18

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Visit classes

Registration, Campus Center

Tours of Campus Center

Ribbon Cutting for Campus Center

Fall Music Festival, B.J. Haan

Auditorium (Concert Choir, Chorale, Concert Band, and Chamber Orchestra present their first concert of the year. Free will offering. No tickets necessary)

7:30 p.m.

Women's Varsity Volleyball, De Witt Gymnasium -- Dordt vs. Ottawa University. Free admission with nametag (JV game @ 6:00 PM)

9:30 p.m.

Reception for Guests and Students, Campus Center (Note: "Meet the Faculty" has moved to Saturday morning immediately following the President's Brunch)

Saturday, October 19

8:00 a.m.-noon

8:45 a.m.

8:45 a.m.

Registration, Campus Center

President's Brunch, Recreation Center (Adult guests enjoy a complimentary brunch with President and Mrs. Zylstra as you meet other parents and old friends. Reservations required. Opportunity to meet the faculty immediately follows this event).

Siblings' Brunch, Campus Center

(Complimentary breakfast plus organized activities for small children to high school age in the Campus Center until 10:30 a.m. Reservations required).

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m.

Tours of Campus Center

Men's Varsity Basketball Scrimmage, De Witt Gymnasium

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Visit With Faculty, Recreation Center (note new time for this opportunity)

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m.

Academics in Action

Women's Soccer, Soccer Field

2:00 p.m.

(Dordt vs. Hastings)

Women's Volleyball, De Witt Gymnasium

2:00 p.m.

Dordt vs. Morningside

(JV game starts at 12:30 p.m.)

2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Theatre Production--Nothing Sacred, Te Paske Theatre (ticket reservations required)

2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Parents' Coffee, Campus Center

Sponsored by Alumni Association

Parents' Coffee, SUB Lounge

Sponsored by the Alumni Association

3:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer, Soccer Field

Dordt vs. Hastings

4:30 p.m.

Dordt Blades Hockey, Luverne, Minnesota

6:00 p.m.

Dordt Lacrosse (tentative time)

7:30 p.m.

Theatre Production--Nothing Sacred, Te Paske Theatre (ticket reservations required)

8:00 p.m.

G.I.F.T., B.J. Haan Auditorium

Student-led worship

The Sound of Autumn

Anna Steketee Staff Writer

The sound of voices singing together and the mixture of many instruments joining as one are key concepts to Dordt's Fall Festival, scheduled for Friday, October 18 at 7:30.

"The Fall Festival started around 1986 when Dale Grotenhuis and I did a concert together and invited the parents of the students to come," said Dr. Henry Duitman, Dordt's band and orchestra director. "In a few years,

the Parents Weekend was developed with this concert as a central focus."

Having been around for over a decade, the Fall Festival had become very popular. "The Fall Music Festival is something of a 'smorgasbord' for the audience, hopefully with something for everyone," said Dr. Ben Kornelis, Dordt's choir director.

The music heard at the festival will range from hymns to symphonies to folk songs, and the festival's first ever performance of

the jazz band.

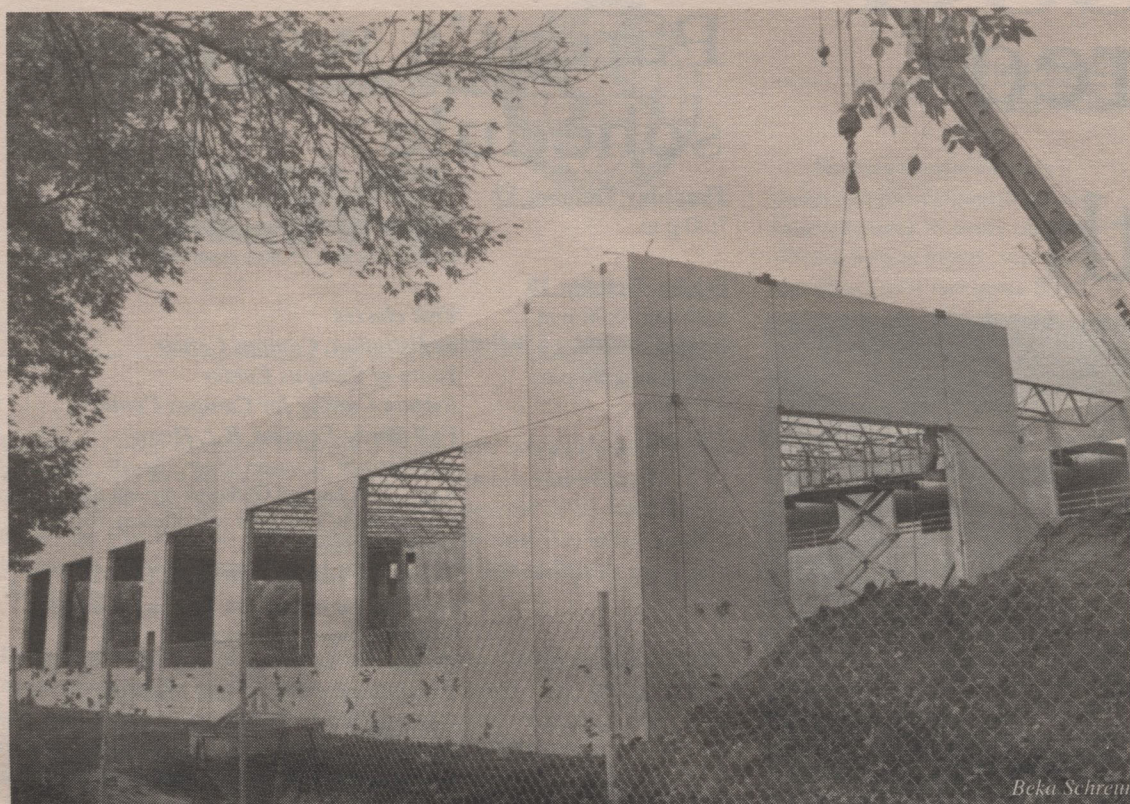
"Every year, the Fall Music Festival is a special event, since it's a packed house and very exciting for the performers," said Kornelis about the festival. "It's also the first opportunity of the year for people to hear all the ensembles at once."

So if your heart is looking for a little mood music or you just do not have anything to do on a Friday night, take a gander over to the B.J. Haan Auditorium and check out the Fall Festival.

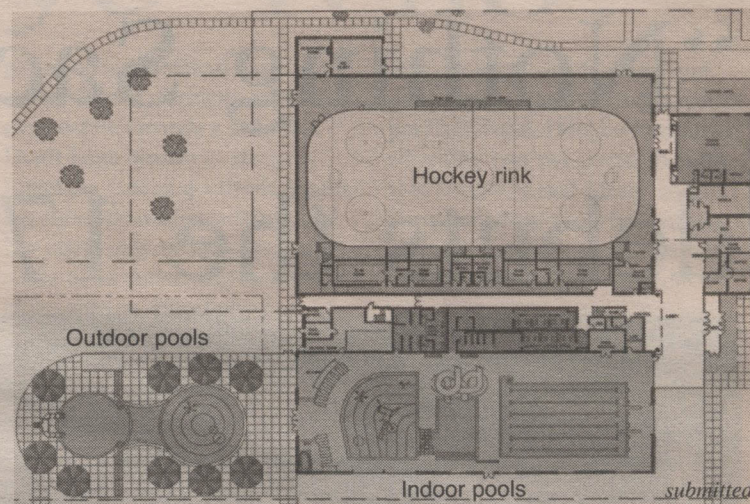
INSIDE

Check out
what's inside
this week's
Dordt
Diamond...

News - 1,2,3
Opinion - 4
Features - 5
Arts &
Entertainment - 6
Sports - 7
World - 8



Beka Schreier



Above: Architectural design of Sioux Center's new All Seasons Center. The Blades, Dordt's Hockey Club, anticipates use of the new hockey rink.

Left: Indoor pool building takes shape in Open Space Park across the street from the campus of Dordt College. The outdoor pools will be behind this building, to the west.

All Seasons Center targeted for May

Rachelle Vander Werff
Staff Writer

A large complex, known as the All Seasons Center, is rapidly developing on 6th Street. Its scheduled completion date is May of 2003.

The All Seasons Center is a 9.5 million dollar project. The funding comes from a variety of sources: Dordt College, the city of Sioux Center, and the Sioux Center

schools have combined forces to contribute 3.5 million dollars to the cause. Through community fundraising, they accumulated 3 million dollars, and the Vision Iowa grant program contributed another 3 million dollars.

At the time of completion, the All Seasons Center will include an NHL size hockey arena for hockey games as well as recreational skating.

The All Seasons Center will also have two indoor pools. One of the pools will be a 6-lane

competition pool and the other will be a family aquatics pool, including two water slides and water play features.

Outside plans include two round pools -- a 5-foot deep pool and a family aquatic pool with water play features like the indoor pool.

The All Seasons Center will also be the home of a Senior Citizens Center, which will have tables for playing cards and pool. Concession areas will be centrally located for the use of everyone in

the facility.

Paul Clousing, assistant city manager, says, "Vision Iowa has the idea that projects like this will attract people to Sioux Center and improve the quality of life for those who are already here."

Dordt College President Carl Zylstra believes this facility will be very beneficial to students. "While I regret the unavailability of sand volleyball and swimming this year, I'm really looking forward to next year when students will have access to a vastly

improved indoor pool, several new sand volleyball pits, and a first rate ice facility, both as a home for the Blades but also as an opportunity for recreational skating," Zylstra says. "If Dordt College had to provide these facilities on our own, we could never afford it. But in partnership with the city, state, school district, and individual donors, our students will be receiving use of a \$9 million recreation area -- all for the cost of sharing upkeep expenses with the city over the coming years."

Entrepreneurial alums establish the Humble Bean

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

Dordt students will soon have a place of their own to go to where they can study, catch up with friends and enjoy a good cup of coffee. The Humble Bean, the new coffee shop in the Campus Center, is scheduled to open over Parents' Weekend and will be run by Eric Van Wyk and Laremy De Vries, both graduates of Dordt. The coffee shop will be open daily from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and then from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and will serve coffee, tea, cappuccino, Italian sodas and possibly smoothies, cinnamon rolls and cookies.

De Vries and Van Wyk admit that operating their own business is a new experience for them and a learning process. "We're entering uncharted waters," De Vries acknowledges. "Neither of us has business knowledge; we don't know what to expect." However,

De Vries and Van Wyk are receiving help and guidance from Professors John Visser and Chris Rehn of the Business Department, as well as from Jenae Vander Wal, a junior business major who is who is serving her internship at the Humble Bean.

While Van Wyk and De Vries are somewhat uncertain about what to expect with opening a new business, they are certain of what purpose they want the coffee shop to serve. "We want this to be a place that is for the students. We want an atmosphere where there is a lot of activity and culture," Van Wyk says. "We hope this is a place where students can just get away," De Vries adds. "Maybe it will even provide an environment where students and professors can interact in a non-classroom setting."

The coffee shop will be comfortable, filled with couches, tables and bar stools. Van Wyk and De Vries expect the mornings to be more mellow and quiet, with more activity at night and on the week-

ends. "I think the atmosphere will change depending on the night," De Vries says. "We hope to have some entertainment, such as live music, poetry readings and comedy league."

Dordt students are excited for the coffee shop's opening. "I think it'll be a great place to get together with friends in a laid-back atmosphere," says sophomore Jeannette Epley. "It will be nice to have something fun to do without having to leave campus." Senior Andrea Pausma agrees. "I'm pumped! I think it'll be a good place to meet new people and get to know them on a deeper level."

De Vries and Van Wyk said that they used to wish that there was a coffee house on campus while they were students at Dordt, so they are looking forward to this new addition. "We're definitely excited by the possibilities," Van Wyk says. "We hope this is a place that helps build community at Dordt and is a place that students can call their own."

Diamond Staff

Editor
Stephen Kloosterman
Assistant Editor
Ann Renee Andree
News Editor
Allison Alons
Assistant News Editor
Lindsey DeJong
Opinion Editor
Denae Wittmeier
Features Editor
Josh Bowar
World Editor
Kristi Mulder
Arts and Entertainment Editor
Jason Mulder
Sports Editor
Jacque Scoby
Dark Room Manager
John Hansen
Photo Journalists
Beka Schreier
Lois Garrett
Sara Prins
Lori Panchot
Computer Graphics Consultant
Mark Haan
Layout Editor
Kathrine Nguru
Copy Editors
Lisa Eekhoff
Joe Eggebeen
Jessica Walker
Sarah Vander Plaats
Ad Manager
Sandi Hoekstra

Staff Writers
Peter Anderson
Bethany Fopma
Kim Lucier
Chris Maust
Rachel Vander Werff
Rachel Volkers
Leslie Larson
Anna Steketee
Andrea Vandr Wilt
Beth Hengeveld

Opinions expressed are not necessarily the view of the *Diamond* or of Dordt College, but represent the views of individual writers. The *Diamond* reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of any contribution.

The *Diamond* is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond. Any letters, comments, or opinions are welcome. Contributions must be received before 5:00 p.m. the Monday before publication to be printed in that issue. Send contributions to:

Diamond
Dordt College
Sioux Center, IA
51250
or
diamond@dordt.edu



Enrollment drops; retention rates reach record high

John Brinks
Staff Writer

There are fewer students at Dordt this year than there have been since 1997 and this year's freshman class is the smallest since 1994.

The dwindling numbers are no cause for alarm says Executive Director of Admissions, Quentin Van Essen. "We knew our total enrollment would be going down because we graduated that big class."

Van Essen is referring to last year's graduating class, Dordt's largest ever at 357 students, 48 students more than the second largest graduating class of 309 students back in 1998.

There are several other reasons for the drop in numbers. "Many of our feeder schools, especially the Christian high

schools, have dropped in their enrollments," says Van Essen. "Obviously, this effects our enrollment."

Director of Career Development, Ron Rynders, feels that Dordt can do more than just explain the drop in numbers. "We, as an institution, go back to the same fishing holes too much. I think we go back to all our feeder high schools and our alumni pool." Rynders went on to say, "We've just got to get more creative in terms of how we can attract students that are definitely college material but don't quite see the value of going to Dordt College as opposed to another college."

Van Essen also says that it is more common for students to attend a college near their home. Being located in a very rural area does not bode well for Dordt. Christian colleges are experiencing increased competition from public universities, another fac-

tor contributing to lower enrollment.

Although the total number of students is down, retention rates at Dordt College are the highest they have been in recent years. Dordt's website reports that retention rates reflect the number of first time, full-time, degree-seeking students from the prior year who returned in the fall.

This year's retention rate was 84%, compared with 72% from the previous year. This means that 84% of last year's freshman class returned for their sophomore year at Dordt, an "excellent" retention rate for a liberal arts college, says Registrar Jim Bos.

It is almost impossible to attribute the record retention numbers to one specific factor, but Rynders does have some ideas as to why the numbers are so high this year. One reason is the formation of the Retention Council.

The Retention Council, Rynders, Bos,

and Pam De Jong, identifies students who seem to be slipping for whatever reason. Rynders, Bos and De Jong meet weekly to discuss the best way to handle each student's individual situation.

Bos says there was a situation last year in which several students were affected by two classes with major tests scheduled on the same days throughout the semester. The Retention Council stepped in and helped get the tests moved to different days.

"I would be very hesitant to attribute one year's improvement to any specific action," says Bos. "If, however, the trend continues, I think we may be on to something."

Rynders agrees. "If we're going to ask the question, 'Do you believe that the Retention Council had quite a bit to do with last year's freshman to sophomore retention rates?' I think the answer is a big fat yes. But nobody can prove that."

Students encouraged to choose a church

Beth Hengeveld
Staff Writer

A worship experience can be greatly enhanced if one feels included in the congregation. One way to feel like a more vital part of the service is to attend the same church regularly.

Dordt encourages students to affiliate with one of

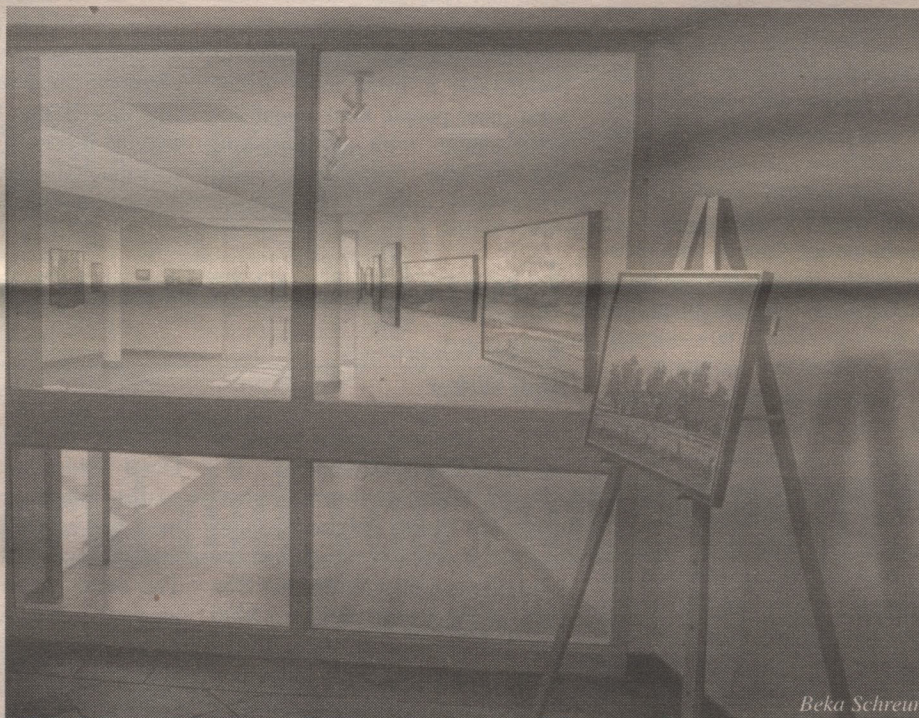
the local churches and attend it regularly.

Currently, students have until the sixth week of school to fill out the student church membership form provided by Student Services. The student's home church will then receive a notification of which church has been chosen.

Campus pastor Don

Draayer feels that the student church membership policy is important because churches care about their young members and should be a part of guiding their faith through college.

Draayer says that while the policy remains the same, some changes will likely be made in the method of tracking student church memberships.



Beka Schreier

To Hull (1990) by Norm Matheis is on display this month in the new gallery.

Art gallery features Matheis collection

Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

The Campus Center Art Gallery is open to the public and features several shows ranging from historical pieces to pieces from current practicing artists. The first show, *A Retrospective Exhibition from Local Collections*, is in honor of Norman Matheis and will be shown until October 12.

The show's reception, including refreshments, takes place October 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Remarks and an introduction of Matheis will be by the exhibit curator, David Versluis, at 7:00 p.m. A string quartet from Dordt's chamber orchestra will also perform.

Matheis was an art teacher from 1977 to 1989. He currently lives in Sioux Center and continues to paint. Some of Matheis' works display local scenes, anywhere from landscapes to townscapes.

Matheis taught Dordt's Assistant Professors of Art, Jacob Van Wyk and David Versluis, at Calvin College in the

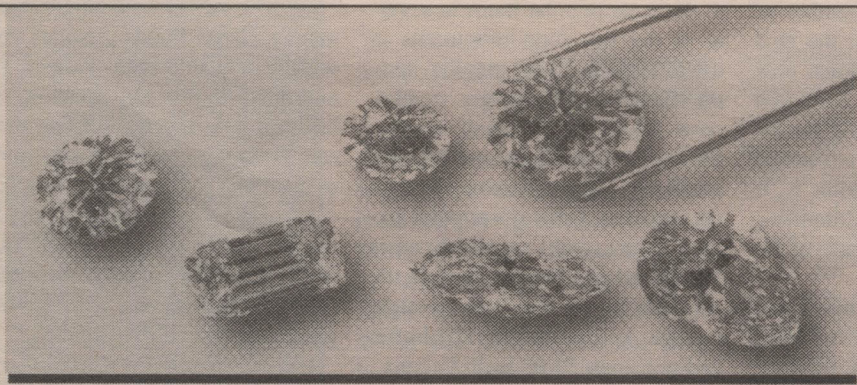
early 1970s. Mentoring from Matheis was an inspiration for both Van Wyk and Versluis. "Matheis is a role model for Christian artists," says Versluis. "He helps us to see things we take for granted."

The Campus Center Art Gallery is a visible part of the college grounds because of its high-traffic location. Light panels are installed in the floorboards, permitting light to be filtered into the downstairs lobby. Overhead skylights create an open atmosphere within the art gallery.

"The positioning of the gallery's spotlights brings out the lines and shadows in the landscape paintings," sophomore Ethan Vander Hart said.

The art gallery is an educational experience for students, and the work inside must have a high level of quality along with a recognizable subject matter.

The entire art department is involved with each of the various shows. "Showings provide a venue for students and faculty and professional artists to exhibit [their art]," Van Wyk said.



For A Billion Years They've Waited Just For You

It took eons of underground pressure to create the natural wonder of today's diamonds, one of earth's rarest, most breathtaking gifts.

So how much longer are you going to wait? Visit Pat's Jewelry to see our large assortment of diamonds and diamond jewelry.



Students Save 20-50% off diamond engagement rings at

Pat's Jewelry in the Center Mall Sioux Center, IA

Do you think you could have done this page better than we did? Help with layout design on the Diamond! e-mail us @ diamond.dordt.edu



Lois Garrett

Canadian graffiti artists mocked!

Vandalism is an unfortunate part of life, even at Dordt College. Of course, I refer to the silly pot leaves, I mean, Canadian flags, spray painted on the ground by the entrances to the science building, the classroom building, and the Commons, to name a few. If you don't know what I am talking about, pretend you are an engineering major and walk around staring at your feet. The flags are hard to miss.

This act of vandalism is exactly what I would expect from some homesick Canuck who misses his home ice and hockey team. Whoever did it needs to realize that he is in college now-not university, college-and act like it.

Granted, the third of the students either Canadian or dual citizens are an important part of the student body, but the fact remains that this is the United States of America. Get used to it. You've got your flag up in front of the Commons; don't expect much more. The Metric System works for only science and math, so learn your Fahrenheit scales. Speed is in mph, so going 35 is a good thing. Forget your igloos, your "queen", and your provinces. You are in America now, so shouldn't you act like it, eh?

It was your choice to come to America, just like it was your choice not to join the US in 1775 and your choice to burn the White House in the War of 1812. Now, you will live with the choice you made and its consequences. You chose to mark-up America with your Canadian symbols so do not be surprised when some true blue son of liberty protects his or her country. Covering up the Canadian flags was the least of what could have been done in retribution.

Like what I've said? Don't like what I've said? Respond to the Diamond and exercise your right to free speech. I did, and so should all of you, even you Canadians. GOD BLESS NORTH AMERICA!!!!!!!

Joseph P. Eggebeen

Let's see a worthy response by the Canadians! Send submissions to diamond@dordt.edu

--Steve

Debate takes place in context of common goals

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

If you are even in the slightest way inclined to form opinions of the news, you've probably already done so regarding our possible militaristic engagement in the Middle East.

"Oh, man," you're thinking now. "Another one of these articles. He probably believes the exact opposite of what I do, but I'll read the thing anyway because I'm feeling angry already."

This editorial is not going to be a blood-and-thunder-this-is-the-way-things-are-and-this-is-what-we-should-do-about-it type of column. If that's what you're hankering after, go to our blackboard site, type in "diamond" as your name and the same as your password. I put some pretty strong stuff on there last year that I haven't been able to figure out how to erase yet.

Since last year, I've come to understand a little more about what other people think about US involvement with Afghanistan, and now Iraq. I don't agree with those who oppose all possible

engagement in Iraq any more than I used to, but I understand more. I understand that people like our own Peter Anderson wish the U.S. would avoid using violence and force to solve international problems. I understand that Prof. Veenstra and others view the Arabic/Islamic mass as a people that have endured a tremendous amount of suffering, a powerful minority of who have reacted violently.

I still maintain that the best defense of our own state is defense of smaller, relatively free nations (like a comparatively free Kuwait from an obviously belligerent Iraq, also, Osama as the lesser of two evils when facing the USSR). If you allow corrupt power-seekers to pick on the smaller, tainted kingdoms, you're just allowing them to get themselves in shape for the bigger, purer democracies. I still maintain that if the Iraqi people are starving it is only because they are very much in need of having a very corrupt ruler removed.

However, temporarily overlook pithy, heat-of-the-battle statements such as the two sets above and notice what they commonly imply.

There are very, very few people who actually want conflict for its own sake. Very few people can in all honesty be called war-mongers; some of us just feel that some conflict may be necessary now to save us from worse wars later. Other people believe we ought to attempt to "shoot the moon" (as you occasionally do in the card game of Hearts) and hope to squeeze by somehow without any conflict at all in the long run, or at least less total bloodshed when all is said and done.

There are few people who would deny that Eastern people have not suffered and who would not want to alleviate suffering if possible. The debate is over how to go about helping the oppressed. Do we say that they've got such crazy leaders because they've suffered so much, and therefore amend the situation solely by distributing

humanitarian aid? Or do we say that they suffer as a result of their militaristic leaders, some of them terrorists, and clean things up by removing Saddam?

The more I wrestle with these questions the more I begin to see the whole situation, debate and all, as a bunch of ants trying to keep an enormous piece of French bread balanced on its end.

All the ants want the French bread to stay balanced, because if it comes down it will probably crush a few of them. But if ants could talk, you'd probably hear them yelling and cussing and see them growing pink behind the antennae as the French bread sways from side to side and ants on the one side of the loaf yell at the their friends on the other side. They've got common goals, but their perspective is different from where they stand.

However, I still believe it's healthy to yell at each other sometimes. Maybe I'll do that in the next issue.

Dordt Commons is right on the money

Rachel Volkers
Staff Writer

The real deal is eating at the Dordt College Commons.

There are two meal plans offered at Dordt; the standard college meal plan (25 meals) and the reduced meal plan (14 meals). The costs of these meal plans are \$990 and \$910 per semester respectively. Some college students think that the meal plan options at Dordt are a rip-off. It appears as though you are paying for more than what you get in return. But if you look at the whole picture, you find that the meal plans that Dordt offers are a great deal.

Jim Calkhoven, manager of Carrie Foods, explains how the meal plan options actually work.

He uses an analogy of how the Dordt Blades hockey team season passes. When you buy a season pass, you have the right to go to as many home games as you desire. The more games you attend, the better the deal. As the number of games you attend drops, the deal also drops. It is your choice how many games you attend. So if you choose not to attend all the games, you choose not to take advantage of the good deal. The point is, if you skip a meal at the Commons, you are not taking advantage of the good deal.

If you break down the meal plans on a meal-by-meal basis, you'll find out how good the

deal really is. Based on a fifteen-week semester, the standard college plan amounts to \$2.64 per meal and the reduced meal plan amounts to \$4.33 per meal.

This is a bargain compared to the most popular items at several of the fast food restaurants in town. Hardees' most popular item, the Famous Star burger combo, costs \$4.00 for a small combo, \$4.30 for a medium combo, and \$4.52 for a large combo, all with tax included. Subway's popular six-inch white club sandwich costs \$3.48, and as a meal it costs \$5.08. At Pizza Ranch, the Tuesday night college special (with ID)-buffet and pop costs \$5.00 including tax.

The difference is noticeable. The Dordt College meal plans save students anywhere from \$.67 to \$2.36 per meal. That's a savings of anywhere between \$140 to \$885 per semester.

Besides saving you money, Carrie Foods provides you with a considerable variety of unlimited foods and there is no limit on how much food you may eat. You may go back for seconds or even thirds if you like.

So the next time you pick up your keys to run out for fast food, remember the savings offered at the Commons and consider the great deal you are passing up.

Trippy cinema could be the next big Dordt event

Chris Maust
Staff Writer

For lovers of trippy cinema: local writer-director Jack Maatman has put together a six-minute experimental film entitled "Faces of Life." While the film is not yet wholly complete, Maatman and guerilla cameraman Reuben Vander Kwaak are working feverishly on finishing final editing and tweaking the sound levels in various scenes. Once the film is finished, it's tentatively planned for release in a public showing at the B.J. Haan auditorium.

Earlier in this article, I referred to this film's genre as

experimental. This doesn't mean that the film was written randomly, it means that the film tries to use a radically different technique to get its story across. Commenting on the film, Maatman says, "It's nothing like I envisioned, but I like it."

"Faces of Life" is a film about film. The power of experimental cinema lies in its weirdness and originality, so what I can actually tell you about the plot is limited. The film uses the same script three times in different locations and with different actors. While the

lines are essentially the same, the mood of each scene is drastically different from the scene before.

Here, I would like to place a plug for actress Heidi Kooiman and especially for Dordt Professor-Producer-Actor Chris Rehn, whose performance is one of the best I've seen in non-professional film. He has a tendency to remind me of Hugo Weaving, the head agent in "The Matrix," but Rehn's work in "Faces of Life" is uniquely angsty and delightfully self-centered. For example, Rehn cackles with glee when a telephone stops ringing

because that means he doesn't have to answer it.

"Faces of Life" is not a film that will leave you covered with a rosy glow and "warm fuzzies" after you've watched it. It's the sort of film that poses a philosophical question mixed with drama and then leaves you to answer it on your own time, similar to the films "Waking Life" or "Memento." Maatman's film is short and direct. My recommendation: watch for signs on-campus and future advertisements in the Diamond, and be sure to attend the premiere showing.



Donna: Commons Card Queen

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

On paper, Donna Brink is a Carrie Foods "dining hall cashier," but you probably know her best as the sweet lady behind the counter who always checks your meal card at lunch.

You might not know her that well, but that doesn't stop her from being personable. "She seems like a friendly person," says sophomore Jimmy Sieperda. "She always tries to say 'hi' or whatever when I go through."

This is Donna's second year at Carrie Foods. "I like the whole thing because it's just fun. I find a joy in it—I like interaction with people. I like to see people feel good," Donna says. "308 teachers came through today," she tells me later. "I had a lot of cards to count."

Not more than seven blocks away from Dordt College, Donna has her home. She is a faithful attendee of Covenant Christian Reformed Church. "That's a neat church," she tells me, "the people are nice. I enjoy listening to the minister: he's short, direct and to the point. He's also got a sense of humor." She's involved in coffee break at Covenant Wednesday mornings before work, and besides that makes it to a Bible study there once a month.

"I like to play cards and games. I like to read educational books and

mysteries," Donna says. "I like to be around people who have a sense of humor; I like to laugh." She's definitely a people person. As I talk to her, sometimes I'm not sure who's interviewing whom! What's my major? What do I want to do with that? What year in college is this for me?

Donna makes a conscious effort to get everybody's name right. "I first read the name, then try to place them with the face, and then....as I see them more and more, I memorize them by heart. I know they like to be called by their first name."

I used to think Donna always read my name off the card, but lately I've not been so sure; she doesn't look at the card too closely anymore. Now I understand.

Donna could just watch the card go through, but she has decided to make it a more personable process. "She definitely makes me feel welcome when I come in," says sophomore Jared Brouwer. "I always try to say goodbye to her when I leave."

Donna works during the lunch meal Monday through Friday. "I'm usually there [at work] 15 minutes before, so I can set up some stuff and talk to the early people waiting in line," she says.

Thank you Donna for your enthusiasm and service to our college. We appreciate your dedication!



Lois Garrett

Top: Donna works hard on recording the number of people that are served by Carrie Foods during the lunch hour. This is one of the responsibilities of her job.



Lois Garrett

Right: Say cheese! Ms. Brink's sunshiny personality shows through as she displays her trademark smile.

Things you've
never known, but
wish you knew...

The history of Scotch Tape

Believe it or not, the sticky stuff gets its name from an ethnic slur. When two-toned paint jobs became popular in the 1920s, car-makers wanted an alternative to masking tape so they could make sharp edges where the two colors met on a car. 3-M came up with a tape with adhesive only on the sides of the strip. That caused a problem: the new tape didn't stick! Painters complained to 3-M, "Take this tape back to your stingy 'Scotch' bosses and tell them to put more adhesive on!" The name—and the new tape—stuck.

From "The Best of Uncle John's Bathroom Reader"

If you have something that you've been dying to know, Email the Diamond at diamond@dordt.edu and we'll do our best to print the question and the answer next time.

Where in the world did you come from?

Eric Hoeksema
Guest Writer

Dordt students come from 35 states, 6 provinces, and 11 countries. According to these statistics Dordt is a well diverse campus. The statistics don't lie but is Dordt really as diverse as it looks? When you look beyond the numbers it is interesting to see that while Dordt is geographically diverse it is not very culturally diverse at all.

A vast majority of Dordt students come from North America. United States zip codes are in 87.5% of home addresses of Dordt students. Another 10.4% of the Dordt student body comes from Canada, that means just 2.1% of all students come from a country other than the U.S. or Canada. Even though Dordt students come from eleven foreign countries they make up a low percentage of the student body.

Not surprising out of the 1357 students at Dordt, more than 40% of the students stayed in their home state to attend college. The majority of Dordt students stay relatively close to home, whether in their

home state or the Midwest and the majority of Dordt students come from states that have large populations of Christian Reformed Church members.

The Christian Reformed Church and the proximity of the Midwest seem to be two of the key issues for Dordt students when it came to deciding a college. John Boer a student from Sheldon, Iowa, said, "I live around here and it was convenient for me."

"I grew up a couple of miles away and my sisters went here and some teachers from our high school coached here," said Matt Boogard a student from Orange City, Iowa, "I came here because I wanted to play soccer." For many Iowa students that were interviewed their decision on coming to Dordt seems to be made partially on the conveyance and famil-

ilarity with the area.

Students living in other areas of the world seem to have similar reasons for coming to Dordt. The Christian Reformed Church and familiarity with their surroundings seem to be key issues for many students. Ryan Dorhout a student from Florida said he was influenced to come to Dordt because "my grandparents used to live in Sioux Center. About 15% of my decision to come to Dordt was influenced by the CRC church."

For Tracey Wikkerink and Elena Bakker, students from British Columbia, Canada, family and church played big roles in their decisions to come to Dordt. "One of my cousins came here and my mom influenced me to come. People in my school also came

here," Wikkerink said. Bakker added that she was influenced to come to Dordt because her uncle teaches here and she heard about it in church and school."

Even foreign students had similar reasons for coming to Dordt. Mat Thomas, a student from Bahrain, heard about Dordt while he was attending Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, he originally heard about Northwestern and Northwest Iowa from his pastor in Bahrain.

Even though Dordt students come from all over the world most students come to Dordt for similar reasons. Family and church seem to influence many Dordt students in their decision-making. Even though Dordt has good geographic diversity on its campus it appears that the cultural diversity on campus is rather weak.

**"A candle
loses nothing by
lighting another
candle."
-Erin Myers**





Sweet Home Alabama? Stay Home!

Rosie Grantham
Staff Writer

In the tradition of feel-good romantic comedies, *Sweet Home Alabama* is somewhat less than satisfactory.

The movie follows rising fashion designer Melanie Carmichael (Reese Witherspoon) as she accepts the offer of marriage from a very eligible bachelor Andrew (Patrick Dempsey), whose mother (Candice Bergen) happens to be the mayor of a large city. The movie finally heads south when Melanie decides to tell her folks, in Alabama of course, she's engaged. There's only one problem. She's still married to her rough-shaven southern husband (Josh Lucas) Jake, who refuses to sign the divorce papers. The rest of the movie consists of Melanie's efforts to get the papers signed, finally realizing that in home sweet home Alabama, she's still a southern girl at heart.

While *Sweet Home Alabama* does have its southern charm and some decent performances, it alienates viewers in its rough treatment of its characters. During the first

half of the movie, Alabama is depicted as being filled with red-necks who are less than clever and more than uncouth. Particularly stinging is Melanie's sharp jab at a gay high-school friend, telling the



town that he was gay, something only she knew.

Sweet Home Alabama tries to give Witherspoon's character a bit more depth than in *Legally Blonde*, putting her in several arguments with Jake and trying to depict her

as a girl torn between her past and her future. However, it comes off like baloney cake, cheesy and half-baked.

Sweet Home leaves the viewer confused about how to view the movie. Director Andy Tennant stars Witherspoon across from Lucas, without any actual chemistry between the two characters on screen. The reasons for Melanie and Jake's split are also unclear and are never fully resolved, leaving the viewer wondering what she actually sees in the guy anyways.

Andy Tennant's film does have some redemption in its pleasantly refreshing supporting performances by Fred Ward and Mary Kay Place as Melanie's parents, and by Ethan Embry as the loveable good ol' boy. Candice Bergen stars all on her own as Andrew's political minded mother, bringing some much needed spark to this smoking candle of a movie.

All in all, *Sweet Home Alabama* is like the Canadian postal system. It just doesn't deliver, and when it does, it certainly isn't on time.

Check this out!

Jason Mulder
A&E Editor

John Owings, Guest Piano Recital Sat, Oct. 12, 7:30 pm BJH

TOOL w/ special guest Meshuggah Tue, Oct. 15, 7:30 pm Sioux Falls Arena, Sioux Falls, SD

Parent's Weekend Oct. 18-19 *see front page*

"Nothing Sacred" Oct. 17, 19, 24, 25, 26 TePaske Theatre

DDL Dance Fri, Oct. 25, 9:00 pm

Riverdance Late Oct. thru Early Nov.

Orpheum Theatre, Sioux City, IA

Newsboys w/ Zoe Girl, Super Chick, and By The Tree Thu. Oct. 31, 7:00 pm Sioux Falls Arena, Sioux Falls, SD

Price is Trite Sat, Nov. 2, 7:00 pm BJH

NISO Fall Concert Tues, Nov. 12, 7:30 pm BJH

Have an event that you would like posted?

Email jsnmldr@dordt.edu

East Side Rocks

Jason Mulder
A&E Editor

One of our beloved former parking lots was recently opened to students again. Residence Life staff brought together the bands Fly By Night, Different, and Doddgier to give students a break from homework and the opportunity to enjoy some great music performed by their peers.

Concertgoers enjoyed free hot chocolate and popcorn while reclining on hay bales, some snuggling under blankets and sleeping bags. Others even brought their homework along. "We want to thank all the people who came out and braved the cold weather," said Bart Ver Mulm, drummer for Different.

David and Danny Fergen

provided technical support with the help of Jason Baartman. "We all had fun," said Justin Vande Kerk of Fly By Night. "The Fergens did a really great job!"

Fly By Night opened things up on the lighter side with a folksy Coldplay feel. Different followed with some alternative rock, and Doddgier really got the crowd going with a System of a Down cover and some hard rock. One student commented that she could still hear the music a few blocks off campus. However, the police department registered no complaints about the event and were even disappointed that they were not invited.

"There were a lot more people there than we expected,"

said Jason Mulder, one of the staff organizers. "Things really came together with few problems. We've had lots of positive feedback!"

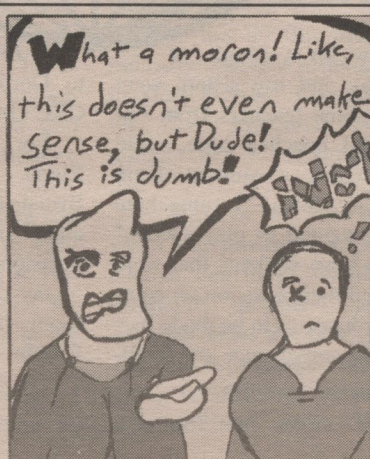
Each band is fairly well known locally. Both Different and Doddgier have each recorded a CD. Anyone who would like to hear more of either Doddgier or Different can talk to a band member and order a CD. Matt Van Rys of Doddgier said, "We are also working on getting together a 'Reformation Day' show." Next time these talented bands play, you would do yourself a favor to check them out. They're worth it.

engage.



INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Christian Graduate Education
www.icscanada.edu

DIRK



by Mactoplac



Cross country seniors close their careers

Leslie Larson
Staff Writer

Becky, Tim, and Stefan are all cross-country seniors. Becky Demarest, the only senior woman, is from Lawrence, Kansas, and a graduate of Baldwin High School. She is majoring in exercise science, pre-physical therapy. After college, Becky plans to attend physical therapy school at the University of Kansas. Some personal goals Becky has are making academic all-American and staying injury free. Their team goal is placing higher in the conference than last year. What is the outlook for next year? "I'm the only senior girl, so I think they'll still be strong. We have a lot of hard-working underclassmen who will carry the team," Becky said.

Tim Ives, one of the two cross-country senior men, is originally from Des Moines Christian High School in Des Moines, Iowa. He is majoring in exercise science, recreation. Getting married, finding a career in the health club industry or becoming a recreational manager/coordinator, and applying to graduate school for a degree in exercise physiology are all Tim's post-college plans. Exploring the cold and windy outdoors in Sioux Center, Iowa, is one of the best things about being in cross-country. The team has gotten a lot closer. "This year the upperclassmen welcoming committee woke the freshman up at 1 a.m. and drove them out to the Sandy Hollow pond. Then, they swam across the pond at 1:30 a.m. and ran back to campus. Upperclassmen waited with day-old Casey's donuts upon arrival," Tim

recalled.

Stefan Petersen, another cross-country senior, is from Oxie, Sweden. He transferred to Dordt after two years at Lamar University in Texas. Stefan is majoring in business administration. He came to Dordt because he was curious about the Midwest and wanted to experience a Christian school. Stefan's goals are to be among the top five runners at Dordt this year and to help the team place better than last year at the conference meet. Stefan comments, "I do enjoy the team spirit that we have when we are running mile after mile on the wonderful gravel roads surrounding Sioux Center."

Tim ended saying, "I think the future for Dordt cross-country is looking better than ever."



Seniors Meghan Graham and Julie Van Der Kooi have helped lead the Lady Defenders to an undefeated conference record in their final season at Dordt College. The Defenders are currently in fourth place in the latest Great Plains Athletic Conference standings.

Women soccer seniors reminisce

Rachel Volkers
Assistant Sports Editor

Amidst many underclassmen, two lone veterans lead the women's soccer team this year: seniors Meghan Graham and Julie Van Der Kooi.

Meghan Graham, a Physical Education major from Lawrence, Kansas, is a senior midfielder for this year's women's soccer team. This is the first year she has played this position.

Graham started playing soccer when she was three or four years old because her dad wanted her to be involved in many activities. She would like to continue on with soccer by coaching a high school or college team someday. She continued on with soccer because it was the activity that she liked the best. Through her years of soccer, one memory that sticks out in her mind is beating the cross-town rivals the first time her team ever played them.

Graham believes that team play is one of the most important aspects of soccer. The team can't function if they are not working together. She also believes that "Competition is big" and loves the fast-paced play of the game.

For Graham's final season she hopes to play well as a team and advance as far as possible in the playoffs. She states, "I think we have great potential. If we can get it straight between our ears, we'll go far."

Julie Van Der Kooi, a Physical Education major from Chino, California, is also a senior midfielder for this year's women's soccer team.

Van Der Kooi started playing soccer when she was in fourth or fifth grade when she realized she loved the game after playing it at recess. She has already started her career in coaching soccer. Last year she coached the third and fourth grade youth here in Sioux

Center. Van Der Kooi would also like to play on some traveling teams so she can continue on with the sport. A favorite memory that sticks out in her mind is when her high school team won CIF (similar to a state tournament) three times, two in a row, while she was playing.

Van Der Kooi loves the physical aspect of the game as well as the strategy that it takes to win. She also keeps working on developing her ball work and playing with the team.

In Van Der Kooi's final season she wants to leave everything on the field and play her heart out. "I love playing soccer," she stated.

Like Graham, Van Der Kooi believes that this year's team has "skill to go far."

You can catch Graham and Van Der Kooi in action at home when the soccer team takes on Hastings College October 19th and Mount Marty October 22nd.

Players earn GPAC honors

Jacque Scoby
Sports Editor

Travis Burgers, a senior forward for Dordt's men's soccer team, was named player of the week by the Great Plains Athletic Conference for the week of September 23-28. Burgers either scored or assisted a goal in four straight games, including a goal in each of the Defenders' games during the week for which he was honored.

This marks the third straight

week a Dordt soccer player has earned player of the week from the GPAC. Freshman Nikki De Blaey earned the honors for the week of September 15-21. De Blaey, a forward from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, scored three goals in a conference win over Nebraska Wesleyan and one against Buena Vista.

Janna Brink, a junior on the Lady Defender soccer team earned GPAC distinction for games played during the week of September 8-13.

Golf looks ahead toward spring

Jacque Scoby
Sports Editor

The Dordt Defender golf team capped off this year's fall season with a less-than-heartening last place finish at Briar Cliff last Monday. Dordt tied with Northwestern for sixth place with 335 points-twenty shots out of first place. While junior Mike Roetman shot a 76, finishing just a few shots out of medalist contention, the Defenders couldn't manage a higher finish.

In a sense, this meet typified the whole of Dordt's fall season. "It's been an up and down season,"

said senior Colin Wielinga. "It seems like we could never get a good tournament going. Some guys played good some days, and not so good other days."

While consistency was not one of Dordt's strengths this fall, it is something Wielinga would like to see more of next spring when the team resumes tournament play.

Despite having two seniors on the varsity squad, Wielinga says leadership was more of a "well-rounded effort." Juniors Roetman and Cody Horstman and freshman Eric Vander Pol all stepped up at different times to provide stability and leadership.

Kills: Lacey-Jae Huisman (14)
Assists: Alisa Den Hartog (31)
Digs: Tricia Beckering (17)

9/21/02
Nebraska Wesleyan W 3-0
Kills: Dre Johnson (11)
Assists: Alisa Den Hartog (30)
Digs: Tricia Beckering (15)

9/24/02
Dakota Wesleyan W 3-0
Kills: Dre Johnson (11)
Assists: Carolyn Sybesma (19)
Digs: Tricia Beckering (17)

9/28/02
Morningside College W 3-2
Kills: Dre Johnson (20)
Assists: Alisa Den Hartog (29)
Digs: Tricia Beckering (23)

10/02/02
Mount Marty College W 3-0
Digs: Dre Johnson (14)
Assists: Carolyn Sybesma (20)

Digs: Stacy Vander Tuig (11)

Golf
9/24/02
Buena Vista Univ.
Team Results: Dordt-6th (of 10)
Individual: Cody Horstman 79
Mike Roetman 81

9/27/02
Mount Marty
Team Results: Dordt-5th (of 9)
Individual: Cody Horstman 76
Jeff Te Slaa 79

9/28/02
Dakota Wesleyan Univ.
Team Results: Dordt 3rd (of 5)
Individual: Mike Roetman 79
Jeff Te Slaa 81

10/7/02
Briar Cliff Univ.
Team Results: Dordt 7th (of 7)
Individual: Mike Roetman 76
Kevin Nibbelink 85

Recent Statistics

Men's Soccer (4-5-1, 2-2 GPAC)

9/18/02
Buena Vista University W 3-1
Goals: Travis Burgers (3)
Assists: Kyle Van Andel (1)
Josh Visser (1)

9/24/02
Morningside College L 1-3
Goals: Travis Burgers

9/28/02
Concordia University W 2-1
Goals: Kyle Van Andel (1)
Travis Burgers (1)

10/02/02
Briar Cliff University L 1-5
Goals: Kyle Van Andel (1)

Women's soccer (6-5, 4-0 GPAC)

9/18/02
Buena Vista University W 5-0
Goals: Janna Brink (2)
Julie Vander Kooi (1)
Bethany Nishimoto (1)

Nikki De Blaey (1)
Assists: Julie Vander Kooi (2)
Janna Brink (1)
Flo Haringsma (1)

9/19/02
Nebraska Wesleyan W 6-1
Goals: Nikki De Blaey (3)
Janna Brink (1)

Meghan Graham (1)
Tracy Klemme (1)
Assists: Janna Brink (2)
Meghan Graham (2)
Julie Van Der Kooi (1)

9/24/02
Morningside College L 1-3
Goals: Angie Katsma (1)

9/28/02
Concordia University W 2-0
Goals: Nikki De Blaey (1)
Kim Vis (1)

Assists: Julie Van Der Kooi (1)
Angie Katsma (1)
10/02/02
Briar Cliff University W 2-0
Goals: Michelle Veldhuisen (1)
Kim Vis (1)

Volleyball (16-1, 7-0 GPAC)
9/17/02
University of Sioux Falls W 3-0
Kills: Tara De Boer (10)
Assists: Alisa Den Hartog (19)
Digs: Stacy Vander Tuig (17)
9/20/02
Concordia College W 3-1



WORLD (AND SPACE) News



Compiled by Kristi Mulder
World Editor

Canada--Queen Elizabeth is taking a 12 day tour across Canada to celebrate 50 years as a monarch. The Queen arrived in Manitoba on Tuesday with only one mishap in the celebration--the royal water taxi across the Red River to St. Boniface broke down and had to be towed the rest of the way. Queen Elizabeth's tour will end in Ottawa next Wednesday.

Deep Space--A new, planet-like object has been found circling the Sun more than one and a half billion kilometers beyond Pluto. Quaoar, as it has been dubbed, is about 800 miles across and is the biggest find in the Solar System since Pluto itself 72 years ago. The object is about one-tenth the diameter of Earth and circles the Sun every 288 years. Astronomers discovered it using a telescope at the Palomar Observatory in California and followed-up their discovery with the Hubble Space Telescope.

Israel--Hammas and another Palestinian militant group have pledged new suicide attacks in Israel after an Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip early on Monday left 14 Palestinians dead. Palestinians describe the killings as a "war crime." Israel says its forces were destroying "terrorist infrastructure" in the area following an overnight mortar attack on a nearby Jewish settlement. The Israelis say they discovered explosives and bomb-making equipment and made one arrest before they began withdrawing.

Ivory Coast--Government troops attempted a takeover of the Ivory Coast stronghold of Bouake on Monday, but withdrew after brief fighting. Bouake, the country's second largest city, has been held by rebels since a September coup attempt. Government forces began their offensive after the failure of talks to achieve a ceasefire. The country's uprising has claimed hundreds of lives and left thousands displaced.

Philippines--Four suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping group have been arrested in a security clampdown days after a bomb attack which killed a US soldier and two Filipinos and injured more than 20 others. The Abu Sayyaf, a band of armed Muslims that the US links with Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda group, recently warned it would mount attacks on civilian, military and US targets. The group has staged bombings before, but kidnapping is their main activity. The Philippine authorities have said the death of Sergeant Mark Jackson of the US Green Berets will not derail its efforts to fight terrorism.

Yemen-- More than a day has passed since a blast in Yemen ripped a hole in the hull of a French supertanker and there is still no clear indication whether the incident was a terrorist attack or an accident. Government officials in Yemen say there was no sabotage, but officials of the ship company say a small boat carrying explosives rammed the ship. If true, the attack would be similar to that of the US naval ship, the USS Cole, which fell victim to such an attack - blamed on al-Qaeda terrorists - in 2000 at the Yemeni port of Aden in which seventeen US sailors were killed.

Fabulous Fun Facts For You

+According to the Detroit Free Press, 68 percent of professional hockey players have lost at least one tooth.

+American John Howard holds the world record for bicycle speed. In 1985, he reached 245.08 km/h (about 154 mph) by cycling in the slipstream of a specially designed car.

+Americans spend more than \$630 million a year on golf balls.

+Before 1850, golf balls were made of leather and were stuffed with feathers.

+Climbing stairs burns up 250 percent more calories than swimming for the same amount of time, and 150 percent more than playing tennis or bowling.

“Dooye-Who?”

D. James Zylstra
Guest Writer

Herman Dooyeweerd is a name that stands behind the mission statement of every class offered here at Dordt, and yet the significance of that name bears little or no meaning to a large percentage of Dordt students. Herman Dooyeweerd doesn't even receive mention on our school web address, but his ideas lace every paragraph concerning Dordt's mission and philosophy. So who was Herman Dooyeweerd? And why does he deserve students' focus here at Dordt College? In a nutshell, Herman Dooyeweerd configured the philosophical framework upon which every discipline in a reformed college could exist, and therefore deserves more attention here at Dordt than he is currently receiving.

In the year 1894, Herman Dooyeweerd was born to Dutch, Kuyperian, Calvinist parents in the city of Amsterdam. He received a law degree from the Free University in Amsterdam at the early age of twenty-three. Dooyeweerd then took a position at the Kuyper Institute where he was primarily responsible for

giving social, political, and legal advice from a distinctly reformed perspective (sounds a little like Dordt lingo already). He soon found the crucial questions regarding social decisions, politics, and law could only be answered in terms of an underlying systematic philosophy, a philosophy that was broad enough to include all spheres of life and adhere to Abraham Kuyper's famous quote "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, our sovereign Lord, does not cry: 'Mine!'" It was essential that Dooyeweerd's philosophy included law and politics, but it also had to include the whole of the humanities, the arts and the sciences; thus encompassing all of God's creation.

To begin this task, Dooyeweerd needed a clean break from the past 2000 years of thought. Greek philosophy was based primarily on a form/matter existence, and medieval philosophy was centered on a nature/grace dichotomy; both of these ultimately led to dualisms in reality. Dooyeweerd began his new philosophy with Creation-Fall-Redemption motif (sound familiar?) as the starting point,

thus avoiding any dualisms and allowing the Creator-God a central position. Next, Dooyeweerd divided reality into two parts: an entity side (anything that "does" something including a mocha latte, a school board, or a pencil sharpener) and a law side (which contained the rules, norms, or "modalities" that governed the actions of the entity side). The modalities, or "modal aspects" as they are called, are separated into fifteen categories beginning with the numeric (anything that exists has quantity to it) and ending with the pistic (the Greek word for faith). The fifteen modal aspects were arranged in a hierarchy that incorporated every thing and idea in existence, and could be consistently applied in fields ranging from biochemistry and language to ethics and topography.

Dooyeweerd's system came to be known as The Philosophy of the Cosmonomic Idea and was soon adopted by many reformed colleges, including Dordt. It still serves today as a consistent philosophical framework by which we can fulfill the task of studying and redeeming every area of life in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To be American or not to be

Peter Anderson
Staff Writer

Unfortunately as it often happens in current American debate, when one chooses to value freedom and God over the dictates of the state, one is often branded as un-American or a marginal heretic and, in some cases, both. The current debate over a possible invasion of Iraq is a good example of just how many minds have become hardened against dissent.

One must ask oneself the question: what is it to be American, or better yet, patriotic? The Constitution was written so as to curtail the powers of the central government. The mindset of our patriotic framers was distinctively liberal, (not in the 20th Century sense) and they therefore set out to limit the powers of the central government and protect the freedoms of the individual through a legally binding document (i.e. The Constitution). So, if one questions the present administrations attempts to curtail freedoms through wars and tariffs, (i.e. the protection of the steel industry) does this make that person un-American or not a patriot? Does one have to give up their freedoms to the government in order to better protect their freedom?

There is also the matter of branding those who criticize a certain government policy or the whole scope of the present government's powers as erring biblically. Yes, the Bible says that God has given the government as an authority over the citizens. However, were the German people to submit to Hitler, or the Russians to the various communist regimes that murdered people in the tens of millions? Does this mean that no one is able to question a policy of the state because the state is "ordained by God?" Have taxation and war become frivolous matters that are to be accepted without a voice of dissent? Must Christians show their disapproval of abortion by simply voting Republican while the present government does nothing to begin a constitutional amendment to end abortion, but instead funds some abortions via coerced tax money?

By asking these questions, or even saying what the current government has been doing is wrong, does not make one either un-Christian or un-American. It simply says that people can rationally value freedom and God's laws over some of men's laws. However, those that seek to silence dissent by labeling someone with an anathema such as being un-Christian or un-American are probably acting, well, un-American.

Don't like what you read?
Do like what you read?
Tell us about it!!!

E-mail us by the 17th
and let the world know!!!

diamond@dordt.edu

Renae's
251 N. Main St. 208

~Renae Visscher, Owner/Stylist~
Stylists

~Carmen Mulder ~Alissa Roetman
~Paula Oostenink ~Missy Driesen
~Ashley Baer ~Gwen Van Roekel

Hours: Mon.-Thur.: 9am-9pm
Fri-Sat: 9am-5pm
Call us at: 722-0008

Located near the northwest entrance of the Centre Mall.